

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /069 W

----- 056298

R 311633Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9731

INFO AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMCONSUL MILAN

AMCONSUL NAPLES

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, IT

SUBJECT: PSI SECRETARY CRAXI GIVES ANDREOTTI GOVERNMENT
BREATHING ROOM

1. THE PSI WILL BE THE FIRST OF THE ITALIAN PARTIES TO RECOMMENCE
WORK AFTER THE SUMMER RECESS. THE INTERVIEW WHICH VACATIONING
PARTY SECRETARY BETTINO CRAXI GRANTED TO THE TUNISIAN DAILY
L'ACTION SHOULD BE SEEN AS PREPARATORY TO THE SEPT. 3 PSI DIRECT-
ORATE MEETING.

2. CRAXI CLEARLY INDICATED THAT HE SEES THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT
AS ONE OF TRANSITION--IT WILL LAST NEITHER ONLY 100 DAYS NOR
AS LONG AS FIVE YEARS. IN A RESPONSIBLE TONE, HOWEVER, HE
PROMISED THAT, BARRING GRAVE ERRORS OR PROVOCATIONS BY THE
GOVERNMENT, THE PSI WILL NOT CALL FOR CHANGE UNLESS IT HAS A
CLEAR AND CONCRETE IDEA OF A NEW FORMULA.

3. MANY SOCIALISTS CONCEDE THEY WERE PUNISHED BY THE ELECTORATE
FOR HAVING, UNDER FORMER PARTY SECRETARY DEMARTIOO, PLUNGED
ITALY INTO A "CRISIS IN THE DARK." CRAXI'S STATEMENT THUS MAY
REASSURE THE PSI FAITHFUL AS WELL AS PM ANDREOTTI.

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4. ELSEWHERE IN THE INTERVIEW, CRAXI MAKES CLEAR HIS COMMITMENT TO THE REFORMIST AND LIBERAL BASIS OF SOCIALISM. HE FORESEES SOCIALIST-COMMUNIST COOPERATION ONLY ON THE LATTER BASIS AND EXPLICITLY REJECTS TOTALITARIAN COMMUNISM AS HISTORICALLY DEVELOPED.

5. SUCH STATEMENTS ARE IN CHARACTER WITH CRAXI'S AUTONOMIST VIEWS. MORE SURPRISING IS THE VENTILATION OF HIS VIEWS IN SUCH CLEAR TERMS SHORTLY BEFORE A PARTY DIRECTORATE MEETING. THE REACTION OF THE DIRECTORATE PROMISES TO BE IMPORTANT TO THE DC.
BEAUDRY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, POLITICAL SITUATION, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ROME14258
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760331-0112
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976083/aaaaabtk.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 MAY 2004 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <26 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PSI SECRETARY CRAXI GIVES ANDREOTTI GOVERNMENT BREATHING ROOM
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, IT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006